

**AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
LEGISLATIVE DAY**



**2008**

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FEBRUARY 4, 2008



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
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Washington State Commission on  
**African American Affairs**



# 1-877-266-4484 Toll-Free Quick Connect Hotline

Speak directly to a Commissioner in your area

**Seattle/King County**  
**Press 1**

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Commissioner  
Winona Hollins Hauge, MSW

OR

Commissioner  
Anne Houston-Rogers, MPA/J.D.

**Tacoma/Pierce County**  
**Press 2**

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Commissioner  
Joe Hooks

OR



Commissioner  
Dr. Marian Harris

**Vancouver/Clark County**  
**Press 3**

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Commissioner  
Deena Pierott

OR



Commissioner  
Earl Ford, Vice Chair

**Bremerton/Kitsap County**  
**Press 4**

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Commissioner  
Rev. Dennis Payne

**Eastern Washington**  
**Press 5**

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Commissioner  
Dr. Michael Tate

**Chairman**  
**Press 6**

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Commissioner  
Oscar Eason, Jr.

**Staff**  
**Press 0**

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Executive Director  
Rosalund Jenkins

building bridges  to the outdoors



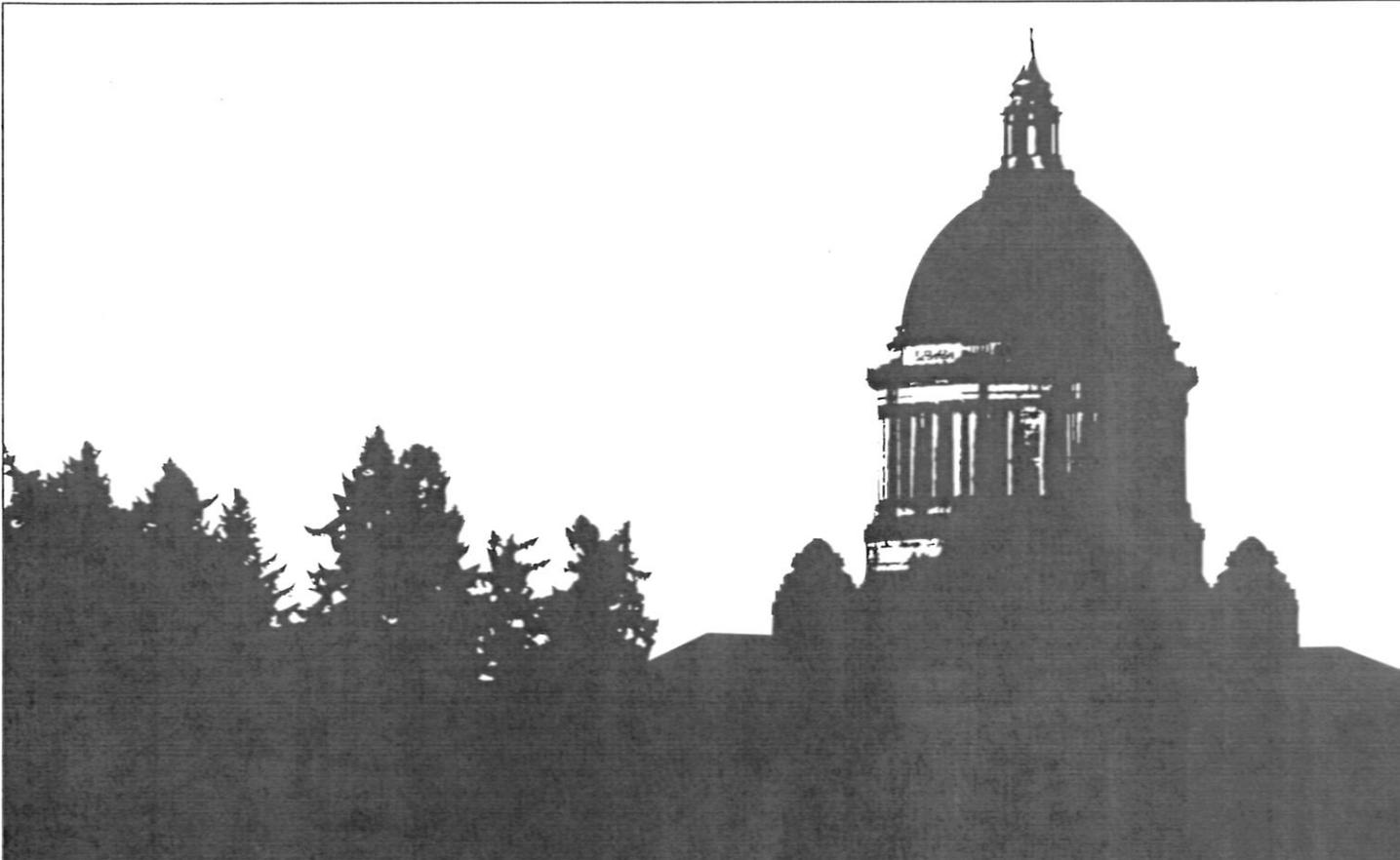
"It's out there where trees don't care what race you are, but they still share their shade; water doesn't care what kind of income level you come from, but it still provides life; and believe me mosquitoes don't really care who you are, they still suck your blood."

– Juan Martinez, Youth Coordinator, Building Bridges to the Outdoors



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# African-American Legislative Day

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Commission on African-American Affairs  
***Legislative Day***

- ***Urban Youth Programs***
- ***Environmental Education***
- ***Employment Opportunities***
- ***Recreational Opportunities***



*Kids Urban Youth Camp at Mt. St. Helens.*



*Migratory Bird Day, Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge — WA State School for the Blind.*

For more information, contact Rudy V. Edwards, Puget Sound  
Community Liaison 206-605-7116, website:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/>

or

Terry Durazo, Civil Rights Program Manager, at 360-891-5000,  
website: [www.fs.fed.us/gpnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf)



USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity  
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11:45 to 12:30

**Lunch**

Box lunches and water will be served at these locations:

- Main Tent – alongside of the Legislative Building (dome)
- Columbia Room, Legislative Building, first floor
- Room 112, Legislative Building, first floor. This is the A. Phillip Randolph Ministers staging area and ministers hospitality room

12:30 to 1:15

**All-Ages Rally – Capitol Steps outside the Dome**

Look for our banner and a small tent at the bottom of the steps

Master of Ceremonies	Oscar Eason, Jr., Chair Commission on African American Affairs
Invocation	Rev. Dennis Payne Commission on African American Affairs
Black National Anthem	“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Sung by Rev. Vernon Brazzle
Introductions	Commission on African American Affairs
Remarks	Rep. Eric Pettigrew, D-37 <sup>th</sup> District
Remarks	Ron Sims, King County Executive
Remarks	Sen. Rosa Franklin, D-23 <sup>rd</sup> District
Keynote Address	Governor Chris O. Gregoire
Closing Prayer	Rev. Dennis Payne

**URGENT**

**Charter buses** are scheduled to leave Olympia at **1:30 p.m.**

**Ministers Prayer Circle – all attendees are welcome to join the circle**

2:00 to 2:15

State Capitol Rotunda, Legislative Building (dome)

2:15

Legislative Day program ends

## **African American Legislative Day Youth Program for grades 6 to 12**

- 9:00 to 12:00            Saint Martins Pavilion, Lacey, Washington
- 12:30                    Youth will join the All-Ages Rally on the Capitol Steps at 12:30

## **Tots Program**

For Children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

- 9:00 a.m.                Registration at United Churches, 110 Eleventh Ave. SE, Olympia –  
right across the street from the State Capitol Campus
- 9:30 a.m.                Program kick-off with Rodney Raccoon musical performance
- 9:40 a.m.                Civics lesson and coloring exercise
- 10:00 a.m.              Bathroom break
- 10:15 a.m.              Leave United Churches, cross the street with State Trooper Johnny  
Alexander onto the Capitol Campus
- 10:30 a.m.              30-minute musical performance at the State Reception Room in the  
Legislative Building (dome)  
Minister Judy Neal and her accompanist
- 11:00 a.m.              One-hour tour of the State Capitol
- Noon                     Lunch and rest
- 12:30 p.m.              Tots will join the All-Ages Rally on the Capitol Steps at 12:30

### **Note:**

We wish Dr. Gary Jones a speedy recovery from injuries sustained during his military service in Iraq. Those who've attended the Tots Program at Legislative Day in recent years will recall his excellent and loving instruction offered to participating students.

It was with great regret that he told us he could not lead the Tots Program this year because of his injuries. We wish him well and earnestly hope he can rejoin us in 2009.



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
P.O. Box 40926 Olympia, Washington 98504-0926 (360) 725-5664 rjenkins@caa.wa.gov

## Commission on African American Affairs Legislative Agenda 2008

As chair and vice chair of the Commission on African American Affairs, we present for your consideration the Commission's Legislative Agenda for 2008. If you're unsure about what proposals to discuss with legislators before or during Legislative Day on Feb. 4, here are some options you may wish to consider:

- Sen. Rosa Franklin has introduced SB 6205 to create a Joint Select Committee on Sickle Cell Disease. The Commission supports this proposal in concept and wishes to support it during the upcoming session.
- Rep. Eric Pettigrew has introduced HB 2722 to create a strategic task force on reducing the achievement gap for African American students. The Commission supports this proposal in concept and wishes to support it during the upcoming session. No bill number has yet been assigned.
- HB 2306 would require school districts to report to OSPI on disciplinary actions in schools and to disaggregate disciplinary data by race, age, grade, and disability status.
- SB 5415 would create a state-level "school health" advisory council to help coordinate multiple entities working on student and school health. Preliminary evidence shows that coordinated school health programs help narrow the achievement gap affecting students of color.
- HB 1473 would restore the voting rights of felons who are no longer "in total confinement," even when fines and fees (Legal Financial Obligations) are owed. Rep. Darnielle attended our work session in Tacoma and explained the politics of this bill. We expect legislative leadership to manage this bill in accord with those politics. Meanwhile, this type of legislation should have a place in the discussion of public policies affecting the African American community, so we included it here and hope to support it in 2009.

- The Commission supports the Vancouver NAACP and Washington State University Vancouver funding for the African American Rites Of Passage Program. This program is Southwest Washington's only training program designed to meet the unique cultural needs of African American middle- and high-school Students.
- Community Health Network of Washington has proposed expanding the Basic Health Plan by 20,000 slots, providing health care coverage for all children by 2010, implementing state-funded health care premium subsidies for low-income workers, and launching a "pay or play" plan to curb the shifting of health care costs from large businesses to taxpayers. The Commission supports these proposals in concept and wishes to support them during the upcoming session.
- The Commission on African American Affairs, in partnership with the Office of the Education Ombudsman may receive \$100,000 per year for six years under a federal "Gear Up" grant through the University of Washington. The UW selected this project for inclusion in their grant package. If the grant is awarded to the UW, funds to the Commission and Ombudsman would be used to develop/offer a parent leadership training to parents of students in Gear Up programs in selected Highline, Federal Way, Kent, and Tacoma schools. Students of all ethnicities and races would be served. The long-term goal is to gather data about the effect of parent training on student outcomes. The Ombudsman's Office and the Commission will provide a 25 percent "in-kind" match to the \$100,000, primarily by giving office space and staff time to the project. We also are seeking private funds. During this session, we hope to familiarize policy makers with this project and "tee it up" for funding consideration next year. Any state funds received would be used to provide a cash match to the federal funds, so that more parents can complete the training and more detailed analysis of project outcomes can be completed.

**Thank you for your consideration and involvement in the process!**

**Oscar Eason, Jr., Chairman**

**Earl Ford, Vice Chairman**

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Education Committee

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HB 2722

**Brief Description:** Creating an advisory committee to address the achievement gap for African-American students.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pettigrew, Kenney, Morris, Sullivan, Hasegawa, Upthegrove, Loomis, Pedersen, Darneille, Conway, Hudgins, Quall, Ericks, Kagi and Ormsby.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Directs the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning to convene an advisory committee to create a strategic plan for addressing the achievement gap for African American students.
- Requires an interim report by December 2008 and a final report by December 2009.
- Requires an annual report beginning in 2011 on the implementation of strategies and the improvement in educational performance measures established by the plan.

**Hearing Date:** 2/1/08

**Staff:** Barbara McLain (786-7383).

**Background:**

Results for the 2007 high school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) show that 80.8 percent of 10th grade students met standard in reading, 83.9 percent met standard in writing, and 50.4 percent met standard in mathematics. However, there are disproportionate levels of achievement among groups of students. The gap in WASL scores between non-Asian minority students and white students in reading is approximately 20 percentage points. The gap in mathematics is between 20 and 30 percentage points. African American high school students are lagging behind other student groups in both reading and mathematics WASL scores. Approximately 25 percent of African American students drop out of school between 9th and 12th grade, compared to 17 percent of white students.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

In 2006, the Black Education Strategy Roundtable (Roundtable), an informal advisory group convened by the Washington Commission on African American Affairs, convened community forums and developed a set of recommendations for education policy makers which included:

1. a statewide strategic plan to close the racial opportunity and achievement gap;
2. a public-private partnership to fund and operate local family engagement and empowerment activities and capacity building institutes for families;
3. a public-private partnership for additional community-based supplemental education for Black youth; and
4. a funding and policy package to increase school funding and fundamentally redesign the school day, curriculum, and instructional practices to meet the needs and learning styles of students not meeting state standards.

The mission of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL) is to serve as a clearinghouse for information, promising practices, and research that promotes and supports effective learning environments for all students, especially those in underserved communities. Another aspect of the CISL's mandate is to promote and facilitate family, school, and community partnerships around the state. The CISL is housed within the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Summary of Bill:**

The CISL must convene an advisory committee to craft a strategic plan to address the achievement gap for African American students. The advisory committee is comprised of 15 members, including educators, parents, and representatives of community-based organizations, the Commission on African American Affairs, and Office of the Education Ombudsman. Five members each are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, and the remaining members are appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI).

The duties of the advisory committee are to conduct a detailed analysis of the achievement gap for African American students; examine the extent that current initiatives address the needs of African American students; identify best practices and promising programs; craft a strategic plan with school and community-based strategies and funding to improve educational outcomes for African American students; and develop performance improvement measures and benchmarks to monitor progress.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy must assist the advisory committee in examining detailed data on achievement indicators and trends. The advisory committee must include recommendations to implement suggestions from the Roundtable regarding family engagement and empowerment activities and community-based supplemental education.

An interim report is due December 1, 2008, and a final report is due December 1, 2009, to the SPI, the Governor, and the education committees of the Legislature.

Beginning in January 2011, the CISL reports annually on the implementation of strategies to address the achievement gap for African American students and on the progress of improvement of education performance measures for African American students.

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Senate Bill 6605

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Hobbs, Murray, Marr, Keiser, Kauffman, Shin, McAuliffe, Regala, Rasmussen, Brown, Pridemore, Kline, Eide, Fraser, Tom, and Kilmer

Read first time 01/18/08. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an energy efficiency worker training  
2 program; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that as more  
6 requirements are put in place for buildings to be more energy  
7 efficient, the more work there will be retrofitting those buildings  
8 with solar panels, insulation, and other weatherizing materials. The  
9 legislature further finds that blue collar, stepping-stone jobs are  
10 leaving the economy without being replaced with equivalent jobs.  
11 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a green collar jobs  
12 training program that focuses on underprivileged youth.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The Washington energy efficiency worker training program is  
16 created within the department. The program shall help individuals,  
17 including at-risk youth, seeking employment pathways out of poverty and  
18 into economic self-sufficiency prepare for jobs in the energy-efficient

1 building, construction, and retrofit industries. The program must  
2 provide occupational skills training in the energy-efficient building,  
3 construction, and retrofit industries. The occupational skills  
4 training may include curriculum development, on-the-job training,  
5 classroom training, and safety and health training. The program may  
6 include internship programs in fields related to energy efficiency and  
7 renewable energy. The department, in collaboration with the workforce  
8 training and education coordinating board, shall adopt rules to  
9 implement the program.

10 (2) The board shall provide an interim report to the appropriate  
11 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2010, and a final report  
12 by December 1, 2012, detailing the effectiveness and any  
13 recommendations for the energy efficiency worker training program  
14 established in subsection (1) of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2008.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires June 30, 2013.

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# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6421

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long-Term Care, January 30, 2008

**Title:** An act relating to providing medical coverage for smoking cessation programs.

**Brief Description:** Providing medical coverage for smoking cessation programs.

**Sponsors:** Senators Pridemore, Keiser, McDermott, Hatfield, Kohl-Welles and Pflug.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 1/28/08, 1/30/08 [DP-WM].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Carrell, Fairley, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Marr and Parlette.

**Staff:** Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

**Background:** A recent study indicates the nation's Medicaid program could experience significant savings if the program included an effective smoking prevention and cessation program. Smoking remains the country's leading preventable cause of death. New data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that smoking rates are no longer on the decline, and 45.3 million adults reported smoking in 2006. The CDC estimates that 20.8 percent of the adults in the U.S. smoked in 2006, and of these adults, 80.1 percent smoked every day.

The Washington State Medical Assistance Program provides a smoking cessation benefit for pregnant women to improve birth outcomes. The smoking cessation benefit includes access to the "free and clear program" which includes counseling, over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapy, and prescription drugs.

**Summary of Bill:** The Department of Social and Health Services (department) must provide a smoking cessation benefit to all adults enrolled in a Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA) medical program. The program must include smoking cessation counseling services, as well as prescription and nonprescription products. The department may implement coverage limitations as required to discourage waste or to address fraud or abuse.

**Appropriation:** None.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 24, 2008.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: It is important to help people stop smoking, and it is important to provide a multi-faceted approach that includes many supports. The products that assist people have improved dramatically over the years and there is a much higher success rate with them now. This bill will help promote health, save lives and save money in the long run. It is the number one legislative priority of Seattle-King County to help the low-income population stop smoking. The low-income population is overlooked for this important effort. We have effective strategies available and we should use them to help people now. Many states already offer this benefit – Washington is at the back of the pack in tackling this.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Pridemore, prime sponsor; Nick Federici, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association; Paul Zemann, Public Health Seattle King County; D. Yoshe Revelle, citizen; Dr. Tim McAfee, Free and Clear, University of Washington; Rosalund Jenkins, Rosalund Jenkins, citizen.

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Education Committee

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HB 2884

**Brief Description:** Requiring policies on and limiting the use of mechanical, chemical, and physical restraint of students.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pettigrew, Kagi, Dickerson, Appleton, Roberts, Haler, Darneille, Hasegawa, Santos, Goodman, McIntire and Kenney.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Establishes rules related to student discipline and the use of restraints in public K-12 schools

**Hearing Date:** 1/31/08

**Staff:** Cece Clynch (786-7195).

**Background:**

There are 295 school districts and a variety of school discipline policies exist statewide. School district boards of directors are required to develop written procedures for administering discipline in each school building. Individual school building administrators are charged with determining that appropriate student discipline is established and maintained within the school. Principals must confer annually with certificated employees to review and develop building discipline and enforcement standards.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Legislature finds that students have a right to be free from unreasonable use of physical restraint and that the use of physical restraint as an intervention in schools should be employed only in emergency situations and only by appropriately trained personnel. Specific provisions with respect to the appropriate and inappropriate use of various types of restraints in schools are provided.

*Chemical and Mechanical Restraints*

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"Chemical restraint" means the "use of force or physical intervention to control a student or limit a student's freedom of movement through the use of pepper spray or the administration of any medication for the purpose of restraining the student."

"Mechanical restraint" means "the use of force or physical intervention to control a student or limit a student's freedom of movement through the use of a mechanical device" such as metal handcuffs, plastic ties, ankle restraints, leather cuffs, other hospital-type restraints, tasers, or batons.

The use of chemical and mechanical restraints are prohibited except when such use is permitted or required by, and is consistent with, a student's planned program of instructional services or an individual education plan (IEP).

#### *Physical Restraint*

"Physical restraint" means "the use of bodily force or physical intervention to control a student or limit a student's freedom of movement in a way that does not involve a mechanical restraint or chemical restraint."

The use of physical restraint is specifically prohibited as a means of punishment or as a disciplinary response to situations which do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm. Under the following circumstances, the use of reasonable physical restraint is allowed:

- when a student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to self or others and nonphysical interventions would not be effective in removing the threat; or
- when such use is permitted or required by, and is consistent with, a student's planned program of instructional services or an IEP.

#### *Commissioned Law Enforcement Officers*

The limitations on the use of various types of restraints do not prohibit commissioned law enforcement officers from exercising their authority or executing their responsibilities, including the physical detainment of a student or other person.

Each school district must establish a written policy regarding the use of physical, mechanical, or chemical restraint and make the policy available to students and parents or guardians. Such a policy must include a description and explanation of what restraint is authorized, the training requirements for those authorized to use a particular restraint, and incident reporting requirements.

Annually, school districts must report to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding all instances when physical, mechanical, or chemical restraints were used. This report must provide information regarding the total number of incidents as well as specific information about each incident.

A principal must include school security officers and school resource officers, in addition to certificated employees, in the required annual meeting to develop and review building disciplinary standards and uniform enforcement of those standards.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 24, 2008.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6205

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long-Term Care, January 28, 2008

**Title:** An act relating to the joint select committee on sickle cell disease.

**Brief Description:** Creating the joint select committee on sickle cell disease.

**Sponsors:** Senators Franklin, Pflug, Keiser, Kastama, Regala, Kohl-Welles, Prentice, Murray and Kline.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 1/23/08, 1/28/08 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Carrell, Fairley, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Marr and Parlette.

**Staff:** Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

**Background:** Sickle cell disease is a lifelong hereditary red blood cell disorder that predominantly affects African-American individuals. The disease can cause a lifetime of pain and extensive medical interventions. While there is no cure for sickle cell disease, it is recognized that better education, diagnosis, and treatment can reduce its serious consequences.

**Summary of Bill:** The Joint Select Committee on Sickle Cell Disease is created. The committee will review current practices for screening, treatment, and education of the disease and make recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2008.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Sickle cell afflicts many adults and there is far less support for them than there is for children. We need to understand better ways to inform the communities about how to manage problems associated with the disease. There needs to

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House Bill 2723

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Kenney, Haigh, Lantz, Sullivan,  
Darneille, Hudgins, Santos, Hasegawa, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating secondary reading intervention  
2 programs; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, despite  
6 improvements in student achievement as measured by the Washington  
7 assessment of student learning, there remain significant numbers of  
8 secondary students unable to meet state standards in reading. For the  
9 class of 2008, more than nine thousand students still have not met the  
10 reading standard. In the class of 2009, nearly seventeen thousand did  
11 not meet the standard. Reading remains one of the most fundamental  
12 academic skills for students to be successful in further schooling, in  
13 the workplace, and as a citizen. But at the secondary level, English  
14 teachers are more likely to be trained in such topics as literary  
15 analysis, essay and term paper writing, and world literature. There is  
16 a need for targeted interventions at the secondary level that provide  
17 struggling students with core skills in reading comprehension.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.630  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of  
4    the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate funds for  
5    schools meeting the criteria of subsection (2) of this section to  
6    implement secondary reading intervention programs as described under  
7    subsection (3) of this section.

8        (2) Schools are eligible to receive allocations under this section  
9    if more than ten students in the school scored well below standard  
10   (level one) in reading on the previous administration of the tenth  
11   grade Washington assessment of student learning.

12       (3) Schools receiving allocations under this section shall  
13   implement secondary reading intervention programs that:

14       (a) Include staff development and training, materials and  
15   curricula, and intensive assistance for students;

16       (b) Focus on providing students with core reading skills, including  
17   comprehension and fluency;

18       (c) Demonstrate evidence of prior success in dramatically improving  
19   the reading levels of secondary school or adult students.

20       (4) The amount of the allocations under this section shall be as  
21   established in the omnibus appropriations act.

--- END ---

**HB 3187 - DIGEST**

Requires, subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose, the department of social and health services to contract for an information and referral services provider to support families with children adopted out of foster care and to contract for education advocacy services for children adopted out of foster care.

Requires the department to provide outreach to parents of children adopted out of foster care and encourage adoptive parents to seek an annual assessment of the functioning of the adoptive child with the family to determine if there are services needed to help maintain or strengthen the adoptive placement.

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6406

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As of January 28, 2008

**Title:** An act relating to offender education.

**Brief Description:** Creating a program for offender education.

**Sponsors:** Senators Franklin, Hargrove, Kohl-Welles, Weinstein, Carrell, Marr, Fairley, Shin, Kauffman, Fraser, Pridemore, Rasmussen, Sheldon, Murray, McAuliffe, McDermott and Kline.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 1/25/08.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Staff:** Kevin Black (786-7747)

**Background:** The Department of Corrections (DOC) must offer basic academic skills education to offenders in custody, in order to assist offenders in obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent.

**Summary of Bill:** As a component of basic academic skills education, DOC must provide offenders who are United States citizens with the opportunity to participate in education about American citizenship and civil rights. This will include topics of responsible citizenship, voting, payment of legal financial obligations, sex offender registry and community notification, civil government participation, and restoration of civil rights, including voting rights and gun rights. DOC must provide offenders, before release into the community, with information regarding community service providers who provide educational services to offenders. DOC must collaborate with community service providers to develop a standard curriculum for the education of offenders in the community.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Bill will give a tool to offenders to help them become good citizens, get a job, and not reoffend. It will create connections to the community, and therefore help community integration. Teaching about civic participation

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should be mandated in high schools, grade schools, and colleges as well as in the prison system. Section 2 of the bill should be reconsidered because it might impair community service providers' ability to tailor education programs to meet the needs of offenders.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Rosa Franklin, prime sponsor; Kathy Goebel, State Board for Community & Technical Colleges; Dr. Gary Murrell, Grays Harbor College.

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6407

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As of January 29, 2008

**Title:** An act relating to increasing the small business credit for the business and occupation tax.

**Brief Description:** Increasing the small business credit for the business and occupation tax.

**Sponsors:** Senators Franklin, Eide, Benton, Kline, Hobbs, Honeyford, Marr, Weinstein, Kilmer, Fairley, Tom, Berkey, Swecker, Rasmussen, Shin, Sheldon, Keiser, Pridemore, Hargrove, Regala, Haugen, Murray, McDermott, McAuliffe and King.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Economic Development, Trade & Management: 1/25/08.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & MANAGEMENT

**Staff:** Aaron Gutierrez (786-7448)

**Background:** Washington's major business tax, the business and occupation tax (B&O), is imposed on the gross receipts of business activities conducted within the state. A small business credit of 35 dollars per month is allowed against the B&O. The credit has not been increased since 1994.

The Department of Revenue may relieve businesses from the requirement of filing returns if the amount subject to tax is less than 28 thousand dollars.

**Summary of Bill:** The maximum credit against the B&O is increased to 40 dollars per each month in the reporting period. Beginning in 2010, the maximum credit against the B&O will increase at a rate equivalent to the increase in the rate of the Washington consumer price index. If there is no increase, or a decrease occurs in the consumer price index, the maximum credit amount will remain the same as in the previous fiscal year.

The 28 thousand dollar minimum threshold for filing returns is replaced by a mathematical formula using the B&O tax credit.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on January 1, 2009.

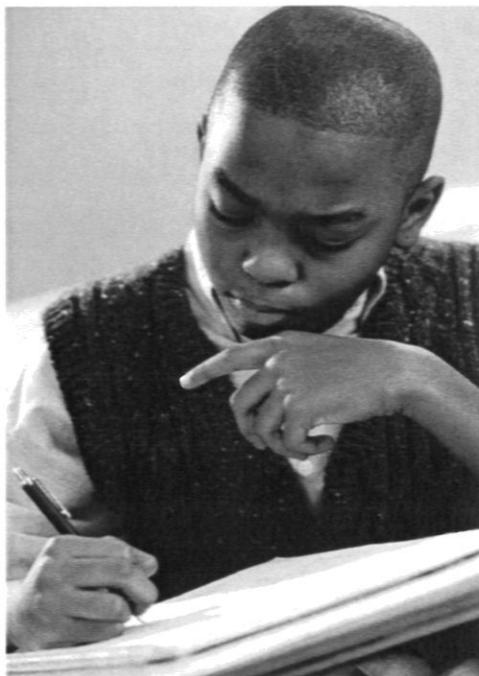
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**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill represents five years of work. Small businesses have stated that because the credit is based on gross, rather than net earnings, it has been very difficult to work with. The bill is designed to help entrepreneurs and small business owners succeed. Senator Franklin worked with the Governor's staff to pare the bill down in the interest of lowering the cost. The indexing portion is a good idea, as it need not be adjusted every year, or every few years. This bill is generally a step in the right direction.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Franklin, prime sponsor; Mark Johnson, Washington Retail Association.

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- OEO helps resolve conflict between families and educators.
- OEO makes recommendations to policy makers.
- OEO promotes family and community involvement and equity in education for the academic success of K-12 public school students in WA State.

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- The Bremerton Branch of the NAACP
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- The Masons and Eastern Stars of Fred U. Harris Lodge #70
- The Office of the Education Ombudsman
- The Seattle Branch of the NAACP
- The Seattle Medium, Tacoma True Citizen, and KRIZ/KZIZ Radio
- The Skanner Newspaper
- The Tacoma Branch of the NAACP
- The Tacoma Ministerial Alliance
- The Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective
- The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
- The Washington State Patrol
- Ujima Consultants
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

## Thanks to these organizations for their support with transportation and promotion

- Allen A.M.E. Church, Pastor Warren Freeman
- Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Pastor Dennis Payne
- First A.M.E. Church, Pastor Carey Anderson
- Follow the Light Koinonia Church, Elder Joseph Palmer
- Full Gospel Pentecostal Federated Church
- Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Gary L. Tyson
- Greater Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Paul Stoot
- Mount Zion Baptist Church, Pastor Samuel B. McKinney
- Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Robert Manaway
- The Tacoma Ministerial Alliance and its member churches

## Thanks to these bus captains for generating attendance

- Viesta Morris
- Beverly Barfield Lucas
- Dr. Charles Horne
- DeCharlene Williams
- Rev. Dennis Payne
- Elma Horton
- Bishop Gary L. Tyson
- Georgia McDade
- Bishop Lawrence Robertson
- Myron Leffall
- Rev. Paul Benz
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- Tutrecia Giles, Assistant Secretary
- Parliamentarian, Oscar Eason, Jr.

## At-large board members:

- Dr. Carl Gibson, Wanda Stewart Wilder, and Al Nurse

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## Link your organization to this vital mission:

An advisory council of community-based organizations, churches, professional/membership groups, and advocacy organizations is now being formed. To align your organization with the BPF, contact Ray Miller for more information at 206-579-0901 [rmiller101@comcast.net](mailto:rmiller101@comcast.net).

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*5,000 youth engaged in youth leadership development activities*

*1,500 internships and job shadow opportunities provided*

*25 youth and young adults received educational awards for college*

*Build youth voice capacity for over 50 cities across America*

*Partnered with over 500 youth development and recreation agencies*

*Received over two million dollars in public and private support*

*Distributed stipends and temporary employment to over 5,000 youth*



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